

CALIFORNIA STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

GILES S. PORTER, M.D., Director

Weekly Bulletin



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GUY P. JONES
EDITOR

The Control of Scarlet Fever

Dr. J. D. Dunshee, city health officer of Pasadena, recommends the use of serum, or whole blood, from the parents of children who show reactions in tests for scarlet fever immunity when parents are shown by Dick tests to possess immunity. This recommendation is based upon serum sickness in more than 15 per cent of a group of children in an institution to whom the scarlet fever anti-toxin had been administered. These cases occurred during the first week after the administration of the serum. Dr. Dunshee's report on scarlet fever control, as published in the Health Index and News of the Pasadena Health Department for December, follows:

"Control measures in scarlet fever have been inadequate and modern methods which might be of assistance have been somewhat impracticable because of expense involved. Within the past two years the quarantine period of twenty-eight days imposed by State law was reduced to twenty-one days. This applies to uncomplicated cases. Scarlet fever has had an increased prevalence during this period but we feel that the reduction of the quarantine period was justifiable inasmuch as the average case has been shown to become noninfectious within that period.

"The difficulty in control of scarlet fever in our opinion is not enhanced by increasing the time of quarantine. We believe the period of greatest danger is before the establishment of quarantine, through carriers and "mild" or "missed" cases. We have confirmed this belief to our satisfaction through the culturing of many hundreds of contacts who showed

no evidence of the disease. We suggest, therefore, that greater care be exercised by physicians and through instruction to families in isolating every illness until its nature has been fully determined.

"Recently we had an outbreak of scarlet fever in an institution containing forty-seven children. The health officer Dick-tested every person in the institution and found a positive test in 75 per cent of the inmates. These were passively immunized with scarlet fever antitoxin and those free from the clinical disease were released from quarantine at the end of seven days. An exception was made in the case of three children giving positive culture of hemolytic streptococci. They will be kept in isolation until their throats are clear. To date, after a period of two weeks, no new cases have developed. All cases in the institution had their throats cultured as a control measure. This is obviously a procedure which is too expensive under average conditions and with the present health department budget but shows what may be done in such cases. A period of two weeks has elapsed since the administration of serum to these children. In the second week out of 39 cases injected six have had a rather severe serum sickness. I would recommend serum or whole blood from the parents in preference to antitoxin where parents are shown by Dick test to have immunity.

As there are persons who mend torn garments, so there are physicians who heal the sick, but your duty is far nobler, and one befitting a great man, viz., to keep the people in health.—Translation from *Xenophon*.

ENROLLMENT IN HEALTH CONSERVATION CONTEST COMPLETED

Nearly thirty western cities have entered the Inter-Chamber Health Contest for 1933. This contest is sponsored by the United States Chamber of Commerce and the American Public Health Association. Western cities have taken active parts in these contests since they were inaugurated several years ago. More western cities, in fact, have enrolled in previous contests than have cities in the other parts of the country.

Interest in the 1933 contest becomes intensified through the offer of the American Public Health Association to make a free survey of the public health work of one of the cities competing in the contest. The fortunate city, to be selected by the grading committee for the survey, will receive:

1. A complete stock-taking of the health facilities of the city.
2. A careful analysis and evaluation of the health services rendered.
3. A report covering the findings, with recommendations for future work and facilities.

If a city desires to be considered for this service, the public health committee of its local chamber of commerce should first secure the approval of the health officer. It should then make a formal request for a free survey, which should be submitted with the fact-finding schedule to the Insurance Department of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States not later than March 1, 1934. This request should be supported by at least three reasons why the committee feels that its community would benefit by such a survey.

After the winning and honorable mention cities have been selected by the grading committee (on the basis of the fact-finding schedule submitted), the city to receive the survey will be chosen. The winning of first award or honorable mention will automatically eliminate cities from consideration for the survey. The selection of the survey city will be based upon the requests received and their supporting reasons, and also upon the information submitted in the fact-finding schedule. It is assumed that, in so far as is possible, every effort will be made by the selected city to use the findings of the survey to promote better local health conditions.

Last year five Pacific Coast cities won awards in the inter-chamber contest. Lodi won first award among cities of its population classification. Pasadena and Palo Alto have won several certificates of award in past contests. Last year Santa Barbara, Santa Ana, Pasadena and Palo Alto all won certificates.

STANDARDS FOR NURSING CARE UNDER F. E. R. A.

The State administrator of emergency relief recently requested the California State Organization for Public Health Nursing to assist in drafting general suggestions for nursing care to be given to the unemployed in their homes, which is a part of the general plan for medical care. Mrs. Helen D. Halvorsen, R.N., president of the organization, has announced the standards which have been approved by the State administrator. Since the program provides for service through the local public health agency, it is a matter of interest to all health officers.

Following are the standards for nursing care in the home under the F. E. R. A., as accepted by the State administrator for California:

1. Only graduate registered nurses of good professional standing shall be employed.
2. An effort shall be made to secure nurses who meet the employment requirements of the supervising agency. When no such standard exists, the California public health nurse certificate shall be desirable.
3. Provisions for nursing service shall be through the local public health agency which is already offering bedside service on a pay basis. When there is no such agency, nurses in local health departments, boards of education, Red Cross public health nursing services, and Metropolitan Life Insurance nursing service may be used in a supervisory capacity to assist in developing a bedside service.
4. All nursing service should be under nursing supervision. The State Organization for Public Health Nursing has set up an advisory committee in the north and south to cooperate with local organizations.
5. Authorization for nursing service shall be given only upon the recommendation of the attending physician and shall be made on the usual order forms, and the number of visits indicated by the physician.
6. All nursing care shall be under the direction of the attending physician. Orders from the physician shall be in writing.
7. The nurse shall keep such records as are required by the F. E. R. A. and the supervising organization.
8. (a) The maximum rate for a nursing visit shall be \$1 per visit. (b) The maximum rate for out-of-town care shall be \$1.25, plus mileage transportation at the rate of six cents per mile. (c) Where nursing care is needed on more than a visit basis, the agency supplying the service on the visit basis shall call upon the local official registry to supply personnel at the prevailing rate for such service.

Even in the populous districts, the practice of medicine is a lonely road which winds uphill all the way, and a man may easily go astray and never reach the delectable mountains unless he early finds those shepherd guides of whom Bunyan tells, Knowledge, Experience, Watchful and Sincere.—Osler.

U. C. EXTENSION COURSES ANNOUNCED

Plans have been completed for the opening of 248 new courses of instruction for adults in the Bay region during January and February under the direction of the University of California Extension Division, according to Professor Leon J. Richardson, Director.

"Schedules of Classes" outlining the new courses are now available and may be had by communication with any of the Extension Division offices: In San Francisco, 540 Powell Street; in Oakland, 1730 Franklin Street; and in Berkeley, 301 California Hall.

Although most courses are given in the evening a number of new courses will be inaugurated during morning and afternoon hours. It is pointed out that the first meeting of any class is open to all who may be interested, in order that prospective students may determine the scope of the lectures and instruction.

Among the new classes starting at 540 Powell Street, San Francisco, which may be of interest to the readers of this publication are the following:

Course	Instructor	Time	Begins
General Psych. XB1A	Dr. Calvin S. Hall, Jr.	Wed. 3.00 p.m.	Jan. 17
General Psych. XB1A	Dr. R. C. Tryon	Thurs. 7.00 p.m.	Jan. 18
General Psych. XB1B	Dr. R. C. Tryon	Wed. 7.00 p.m.	Jan. 17
Principles of Economics XB1A	Mr. Donald Sham	Thurs. 3.00 p.m.	Jan. 18
Intro. to Social Case Work 755	Miss Maurine McKeany	Tues. 7.00 p.m.	Jan. 16

Courses Starting at 1730 Franklin Street, Oakland, Include:

Community Aspects of Mental Hygiene X 450A	Dr. Sydney K. Smith	Wed. 7.00 p.m.	Jan. 17
General Psych. XB1A	Dr. C. W. Brown	Wed. 7.00 p.m.	Jan. 17
General Psych. XB1B	Dr. C. W. Brown	Mon. 7.00 p.m.	Jan. 15
Principles of Economics XB1A	Mr. Joseph Crumb	Tues. 7.00 p.m.	Jan. 16
Principles of Economics XB1B	Mr. Joseph Crumb	Wed. 7.00 p.m.	Jan. 17
Intro. to Social Case Work 755	Mr. R. E. Arne	Tues. 7.30 p.m.	Jan. 9
Social Case Work 756	Mr. R. E. Arne	Thurs. 7.30 p.m.	Jan. 11

JAIL FOR DRUG LAW VIOLATOR

Under the activities of the State Bureau of Food and Drug Inspection, a man who has been selling tablets composed of bicarbonate of soda in imitation of a well-known brand of aspirin has been caught, prosecuted and sent to jail for two and a half years. It was the custom of this individual—one Louis R. Stein—to counterfeit the trade name of the nationally known brand of aspirin, producing cards on which were displayed fifty or more small packages which were sold at news stands, lunch counters and similar places. Stein was captured in Texas and returned to Los Angeles, where he stood trial before Judge Leo Aggler. He was convicted on three counts, totaling two years and six months of actual imprisonment.

The inspectors of this bureau, under the direction of Milton P. Duffy, chief, are actively engaged in the investigation of counterfeit brands of other well-known products which are appearing on the market.

He who has health has hope; he who has hope has all.—An Arab Proverb.

THE DECLINING BIRTH RATE

Senator C. H. Deuel of Butte County, editor of the Chico Record, made interesting comment in a recent issue of that paper on figures pertaining to the declining birth rate in this State released by the State Department of Public Health. Senator Deuel states that the percentage of decline in California is comparable to that recorded in nearly all parts of the Nation and indicates that in about 1980 the population will become static. The decline of the birth rate is being felt in the public schools and for the first time entering classes are said to have fewer pupils than the several grades immediately above. He believes that curtailment of immigration and economic conditions have been important factors in reduction of the birth rate. In Europe the falling birth rate is regarded with grave alarm, but no one can say whether a nation is better off with fewer or more inhabitants beyond that required number to set it off as a nation. He concludes that Americans will probably be better content with fewer numbers and more satisfactory economic and cultural conditions than with greater numbers and corresponding increasing intensity in the competitive conditions of life.

SIXTH GORGAS ESSAY CONTEST ANNOUNCED

The sixth annual Gorgas Memorial essay contest has been announced by the Gorgas Memorial Institute of Washington, D. C. This contest is open to high school juniors and seniors. It opened December 11 and will close February 16, 1934. The subject will be "Past Benefits and Future Importance to Man of the Control of Disease-Bearing Mosquitoes."

Winners in each high school will be selected by a faculty committee. Papers from winning high school in each State will be judged by a committee of State officials. The winner of the National award will receive \$500 in cash and a travel allowance of \$200 to Washington to receive the award.

California students, during past years, have entered into this contest actively and it is believed that a large number will enter the new competition. Eighteen thousand students throughout the country participated in the last National contest.

Further information can be obtained from Admiral Cary T. Grayson, President of the Gorgas Memorial Institute, 1331 G Street N. W., Washington, D. C.

I am convinced that the control of venereal diseases and particularly the control of syphilis offers the next great opportunity for an advance in public health. It is the most important unsolved problem facing us.—Thomas D. Parran, Sr., M.D.

AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION TO MEET IN PASADENA

The annual meeting of the American Public Health Association will be held in Pasadena in the fall of 1934. It is fifteen years since the association has held its annual meeting in this State. Dr. John L. Pomeroy, health officer of Los Angeles County, and president of the western branch of the American Public Health Association, and Dr. J. D. Dunshee, city health officer of Pasadena, are engaged in making preliminary plans. A meeting of the western branch of the association which was held in Pasadena last May established a criterion, which places that city in the front rank of municipalities equipped properly to house and entertain delegates to a national convention.

The greatest of follies is to sacrifice health for any other advantage.—Schopenhauer (1850).

MORBIDITY*

Diphtheria

32 cases of diphtheria have been reported, as follows: Butte County 1, Fresno 1, Kern County 1, Kings County 1, Los Angeles County 1, Long Beach 1, Los Angeles 19, King City 1, Napa County 1, Napa 1, Riverside County 1, Corona 1, San Diego 1, Sunnyvale 1.

Chickenpox

319 cases of chickenpox have been reported. Those communities reporting 10 or more cases are as follows: Hayward 10, Oakland 18, Gridley 11, Los Angeles County 18, Glendale 14, Los Angeles 38, Pasadena 14, Merced County 11, Los Banos 13, San Diego 10, San Francisco 28.

Measles

214 cases of measles have been reported. Those communities reporting 10 or more cases are as follows: Oakland 59, San Diego 119.

Scarlet Fever

178 cases of scarlet fever have been reported. Those communities reporting 10 or more cases are as follows: Fresno County 16, Los Angeles County 14, Los Angeles 51, San Francisco 10.

Whooping Cough

147 cases of whooping cough have been reported.

* From reports received on December 26th and 27th for week ending December 23d.

Those communities reporting 10 or more cases are as follows: Oakland 33, Kern County 12, Los Angeles 29, San Francisco 13.

Smallpox

4 cases of smallpox from Glendale have been reported.

Typhoid Fever

33 cases of typhoid fever have been reported, as follows: Fresno County 1, Kern County 2, Bakersfield 1, Kings County 1, Covina 1, Inglewood 1, Los Angeles 10, Torrance 1, Gardena 2, Carmel 1, Sacramento County 1, San Diego County 1, San Diego 9, San Francisco 1.

Meningitis (Epidemic)

One case of epidemic meningitis from Siskiyou County has been reported.

Poliomyelitis

One case of poliomyelitis from Los Angeles has been reported.

Beriberi

One case of beriberi from Stockton has been reported.

Jaundice (Epidemic)

One case of epidemic jaundice from Los Angeles has been reported.

Food Poisoning

One case of food poisoning from San Francisco has been reported.

Undulant Fever

2 cases of undulant fever have been reported, as follows: Imperial County 1, Santa Ana 1.

Coccidioidal Granuloma

2 cases of coccidioidal granuloma have been reported, as follows: Kern County 1, Bakersfield 1.

Psittacosis

One case of psittacosis from Los Angeles has been reported.

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